

Message Text

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ACTION EA-10

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FM AMCONSUL HONG KONG

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4748

INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR

AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

AMEMBASSY MANILA

AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE

AMEMBASSY TAIPEI

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

USLO PEKING

CINCPAC HONLULU HI

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CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR CH MY

SUBJ: PRC GREETS MALAY COMMUNIST PARTY 45TH ANNIVERSARY

REF: HONG KONG 13469, 1974

SUMMARY:HAGAINST THE BACKGROUND OF INDO-CHINA EVENTS AND AT A TIME WHEN VARIOUS ASEAN COUNTRIES ARE LOOKING FOR SIGNALS OF PEKING'S INTENTIONS, THE CHINESE COMMUNIST PARTY 45TH ANNIVERSARY GREETING TO THE MALAYAN COMMUNIST PARTY (MCP) TAKE ON ADDED INTEREST. WHIE THE SUBSTANCE OF THE CHINESE MESSAGE ITSELF IS COMARATIVELY MILD, ITS APPEARANCE AT THIS TIME IS LIKELY TO CAUSE CONCERN IN MALAYSIA AND OTHER ASEAN STATES.
END SUMMARY

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1. THE PRC NORMALLY PROVIDES SPECIAL ATTENTION TO FIVE-

YEAR CELEBRATIONS OF FRATERNAL PARTIES AND , NCNA HAS CARRIED THE CCP CENTRAL COMMITTEE'S CONGRATULATIONS TO THE MCP CENTRAL COMMITTEE ON THE 45TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE MCP ON APRIL 29. THE MESSAGE PRAISED THE MCP'S STRUGGLE AGAINST JAPANESE IMPERIALISM AND BRITISH COLONIALISM, AND ITS LEADERSHIP OF THE MALAYAN PEOPLE IN GAINING MALAYAN LIBERATION. THE MESSAGE CONTINUES ON , HOWEVER, TO STATE THAT THE MCP IS STILL "HOLDING ALOFT THE REVOLUTIONARY BANNER" AND "ADHERING TO THE ROAD OF ARMED STRUGGLE". THE MESSAGE THEN POINTS TO UNITED FRONT TACTICS AS THE METHODS OF ACHIEVING THE "NEW AND STILL GREATER VICTORIES" BEFORE PREDICTING THE TRIUMPT OF THEIR STRUGGLE.

2. IN 1970, WHEH CLEEBRATING THE MCP'S 40TH ANNIVERSARY, THE CCP CENTRAL COMMITTEE MESSAGE WAS CONSIDERABLE STRONGER , ESPECIALLY IN DONDEMATION OF THE "MALYSIAN REACTIONARIES". AT THAT TIME, THE CCP CALLED FOR CONTINUED ARMED STRUGGLE, SURRONUNDING THE CITIES, SEIZING POWER BY ARMED FORCE, OVER-THROWING THE REACTIONARY RULE OF THE RAHMAN-RAZAK CLIQUE AND THE LE KUAN YEW CLIQUE, AND ESTABLISHING THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF MALAYA. HAVING ESTABLISHED DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS WITH THE PRC LAST YEAR, THE MALAYSIAN AUTHORITIES APPARENTLY BELIEVED THEY HAD CHINESE GUARTANTES THAT SUCH ATTACKS WOULD BE STOPPED.

3. MALAYSIAN COMMISSION OFFICER GHAZZALI TOLD US CONGENOFF THAT, AS FAR AS MALYSIANS WERE CONCERNED, THE ISSUANCE OF THE MESSAGE WAS UNQEXPECTED AND WOULD PROBABLY DRAW CONSIDERABLE ADVERSE PUBLIC REACIION IN MALAYSI. HE SAID THAT WHELE THE PRC MAKES A DISTINCITON BETWEEN PARTY-TO-PARTY AND STATE-TO-STATE RELATIONS, OTHER COUNTRIES DO NOT UNDERSTAND NOR SUBSCRIBE TO SUCH RATIONALE. HE NOTED THE OCCURANCE OF SIZABLE COMMUNIST TERRORIST ATTACKS AGAINST GOM SECURITY UNITS RECENTLY AND SAID THE MALAYSIAN PUBLIC WOULD LIKELY LINK THE CCP MESSAGE AND THOSE CLASHES AS EVIENCE THAT STEPPED-UP INSURGENT ACTIVITIES HAVE A PEKING CONNECTION. COMING ON THE HEELS OF INDO-CHINA DEVELOPMENTS AND AT A TIME WHEN OTHER ASEAN COUNTRIES ARE CONDUCTING A DIALOGUE WITH PEKING , SUCH FRATERNAL CHINESE MESSAGES DO NOT MESH WILL WITH PEKING GOOD WELL GESTURES.

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4. COMMENT: ADVERSE ASEAN REACTION NOTWITHSTANDING, IT WOULD BE PREMATURE AT THIS POINT TO JUDGE FROM THE ISSUANCE OF SUCH A FRATERNAL PARTY MESSAGE THAT PEKING HAS ALTERED ITS POSITION RE SUPPORT OF INSURAGENCIES. AS NOTED IN DECEMBER 1974 (REFTEL), PEKING GAVE UNUSUAL ATTENTION TO THE 32ND ANNIVERSARY OF THE THAI COMMUNIST PARTY FOUNDING. NO DOUBT PEKING IS AWARE THAT SUCH EVIDENCE OF POLITICAL SUPPORT, PARTICULARLY

IN THE WAKE OF INDO-CHINA , IS LIKELY TO ERODE ASEAN CONFIDENCE
IN CHINESE STATEMENTS ABOUT PRC NON-INTERFERENCE IN INTERNAL AF-
FAIRS AND NON-DIRECT SUPPORT OF INSURGENCIES. HOWEVER, FOR THE MOMENT
AT LEAST, THE CHINESE APPARENTLY ARE WILLING TO FOREGO POLITICAL
ADVANTAGES THAT MIGHT ACCRUE FROM A MORE TEPID PRC POSITION ON
FRATERNAL PARTY CONNECTIONS.

5. WE WOULD APPRECIATE ANY REACTION WITH THE ASEAN
GOVERNMENTS, AND PARTICULARLY MALAYSIA, MIGHT HAVE TO THE
CCP MESSAGE.
CROSS

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